AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): A flame-retardant polyester fiber comprising a phosphorus compound copolymerized polyester comprising a ~~phosphorous~~ phosphorus atom in a side chain and satisfying the following formulas (1)-(3):

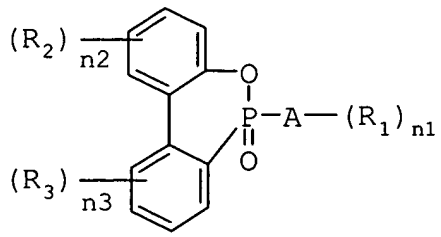
$$\tan \delta_{max} \geq \text{~~0.1740~~ 0.236} \qquad \text{(formula 1)}$$

$$T\alpha - 3.77 \times \ln(\text{dtpf}) \leq 137.0 \qquad \text{(formula 2)}$$

$$1.331 \leq SG - \frac{\sqrt{\Delta n}}{8.64} \leq 1.345 \qquad \text{(formula 3)}$$

wherein $\tan \delta_{max}$ is a maximum value of loss tangent in a dynamic viscoelasticity measurement, $T\alpha$ is a temperature at which loss tangent reaches the maximum, dtpf is single fiber fineness (dtex), SG is density (g/cm^3), Δn is birefringence and wherein the flame-retardant polyester fiber is produced by melt-spinning at a take-up speed of 1000 m/min - 4500 m/min, has a ~~phosphorous~~ phosphorus content of 500-50,000 ppm, ~~and~~ has a shrinkage in hot water (SHW) of not more than 10%, and in a yarn abrasion test the number of times before fiber breakage under a load of 0.098 N/tex is not less than 7720 times.

2. (Original) The flame-retardant polyester fiber of claim 1, which comprises a copolymerized polyester obtained by adding a phosphorus compound of the following formula (1):



(1)

wherein R_1 is a monovalent ester-forming functional group, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and each is selected from a halogen atom, a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms and R_1, A is a divalent or trivalent organic residue, n1 is 1 or 2 and n2 and n3 are each an integer of 0 to 4.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Original) The flame-retardant polyester fiber of claim 1, which shows a tensile elongation at break (DE) of 20-50%.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Original) The flame-retardant polyester fiber of claim 1, which satisfies the following formula 4, wherein a L value is not less than 67 and a b value is not more than 10.00 as measured with a Hunter's color-difference meter:

$$\%B.B. < 0.5 \text{ (formula 4)}$$

wherein %B.B. is a proportion of ester bond broken upon immersion in a closed system in pure water at 130°C for 6 h, which can be determined by the following formula (5) wherein an intrinsic viscosity before immersion is $[\eta]_i$ and that after immersion is $[\eta]_f$, and the intrinsic viscosity is determined in a mixed solvent of phenol/1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane (weight ratio 3/2) at 30°C:

$$\%B.B. = 0.244 \times \{[\eta]_f^{-1.471} - [\eta]_i^{-1.471}\} \text{ (formula 5).}$$

7. (Original) The flame-retardant polyester fiber of claim 1, wherein the phosphorus compound copolymerized polyester comprises an organic fluorescent brightener in a proportion of 0.01-1 wt% and, as a condensation polymerization catalyst, an antimony compound, a germanium compound and a cobalt compound in amounts that simultaneously satisfy the following formulas (6)-(9):

$30 \leq S \leq 400$ (formula 6)

$10 \leq G \leq 100$ (formula 7)

$5 \leq C \leq 40$ (formula 8)

$200 \leq S+2G+C \leq 400$ (formula 9)

wherein S, G and C are each a content (ppm) of an antimony atom, germanium atom or cobalt atom relative to the polyester.

8. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant polyester woven or knitted fabric comprising the flame-retardant polyester fiber of claim 1 ~~at least in a part thereof~~.

9. (Previously Presented) A suede raised woven or knitted fabric, which is a raised woven, knitted fabric comprising the flame-retardant polyester woven or knitted of claim 8 that underwent a raising treatment, and which shows a coefficient of friction of a surface of the woven, knitted fabric by a surface tester KES-FB4 of 0.200-0.300.

10. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant polyester raised warp knitted fabric, which is a raised woven or knitted fabric comprising the flame-retardant polyester woven or knitted of claim 8 ~~that underwent~~ subjected to a raising treatment, and which shows an after-flame time of not more than 3 sec as measured by the following test method:

a flame of a lighter is drawn up to a bottom end of a specimen (1.5 cm × 20 cm) stood vertically and the flame is drawn back when the specimen is inflamed, along with which the after-flame time of the specimen is measured.

11. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant polyester non-woven fabric comprising the flame-retardant polyester fiber of claim 1 ~~at least in a part thereof~~.

12. (Previously Presented) The flame-retardant polyester fiber of claim 1, wherein the fiber is obtained by drawing, after melt spinning, at a draw ratio of not more than 2.88 and at a setting temperature of not less than 150°C.